

REMARKS

At the outset, the Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-14. Claims 4, 8 and 18-24 have been canceled.

In the Office Action, claims 15-20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Babula et al. (US 2002/0004798 A1). As applied to canceled claims 18-20 and 24, this ground of rejection is now moot. As applied to claims 15-17, the Applicants traverse this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to recite that a computerized device receives information specifying a particular scanner, monitors traffic at a location on the local area network that the specified scanner is connected to and captures any DICOM object originating from that scanner, the transmitted DICOM object being addressed to a receiving device connected to the local area network and comprising at least one image frame acquired by the specified scanner. Claim 15 has been further amended to recite that the computerized device has an address different than the address of the receiving device. In other words, the computerized device intercepts any DICOM object transmitted by the specified scanner even though the transmitted object is addressed to a receiving device and is not addressed to the computerized device.

The Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments to claim 15 do not raise new issues, but rather simply import limitations that already appear in substantially similar form in allowed claim 1. Accordingly, it is believed that entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection would be proper.

The Applicants further submit that amended claim 15 is not anticipated by Babula. There is no disclosure in Babula that the management station 70 captures any file or object from the local area network that is not addressed to. In fact, as seen in Figure 1, the controllers 30 and 46 of systems 14 and 16 are each shown connected directly to workstation 72 of the management station 70. There is no disclosure in Babula that controllers 30 and 46 communicate with each other via a local area network. However, ¶ [0036] in Babula discloses that the management system 70 can be coupled to the system controllers in an intranet configuration, in which case a person skilled in the art would perhaps recognize that the system controllers 30 and 46 could communicate with each other via that intranet or with other devices connected to that intranet. Even assuming that to be the case, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the management system captures files or objects being transmitted on that intranet which are not addressed to the management station.

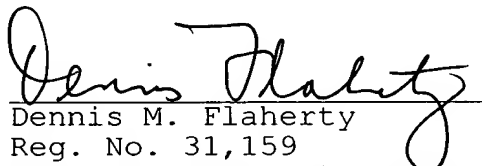
To the extent that the system controllers 30 and 46 transmit data onto the intranet that is grabbed by the

management station 70, there appear to be two situations. In the first situation, the system controllers 30 and 46 send files or objects that are addressed to the management station. In the second situation, the system controllers 30 and 46 send files or objects to the central service facility 22 via the management station 70, in which case the files or objects are not addressed to the management station, but rather are presumable addressed to the central service facility, but pass through the management station. Each of these situations is different than the situation recited in amended claim 15, namely, that the system controller (i.e., scanner) transmits a DICOM object addressed to a receiving device on the local area network or intranet, which is not addressed to the management station 70, but is captured by the management station 70 in the course of monitoring.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants submit that amended claim 15 is not anticipated by Babula. Reconsideration of this application and allowance of claims 15-17 are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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